Chapter 3 Comments and Coordination

- December 5, 2002, an open house was held to allow area residents, local officials, and other interested parties to review the project. The open house was held at the Buttermaker's Cottage in Penn Valley, Nevada County. The attendees were primarily residents within the project area. Caltrans staff provided oversized mapping of the project design in which individuals could observe the proposed project and observe location of impacts to their parcels. In addition, environmental staff was present to answer questions and/or concerns. No questions or comments were expressed in regard to environmental issues. The public expressed support for the project. Among all attendees, no opposition was expressed.
- January 2004, Nevada County Planning Department was contacted to discuss land use, farmland and timberland and consistency with the Nevada County General Plan. The County is in favor of the project.
- Ongoing consultation, coordination, and permit acquisition in regard to the California Endangered Species Act.

This Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment will be available for public review and comment for a minimum of 30 days. During the public review, a notice of availability and opportunity for a public workshop will be advertised. Comments received during the review period will be added to the final Initial Study/Environmental Assessment.

Chapter 4 List of Preparers

Alicia Beyer, Hazardous Waste Coordinator

MA Civil Engineering (Hazardous Waste), University of Texas; BS Civil Engineering, Chihuahua State University. Ten years in hazardous waste studies. **Contribution: Initial Site Assessment**

Darla Tate, Associate Environmental Planner

California State University, Sacramento, BA Environmental Studies Major /Biology Minor. Six years experience working with CEQA, two years experience preparing CEQA and NEPA documents. **Contribution: Document Preparation.**

Jeannie Baker, Senior Environmental Planner

BA Geography, University of California, Davis. Twenty years experience in preparing and supervising the preparation of environmental documents. **Contribution:**

Environmental Branch Chief.

Juan J. Jauregui, Licensed Civil Engineer/Project Engineer

BS Civil Engineering, California State University, Chico. Six years experience in design/construction/project development. **Contribution: Project design**

Lesley Phillips, Landscape Associate

BS Landscape Architecture, California State University, Davis. Nine years experience with landscape architecture; eight years experience with structures bridge architecture. Fifteen years working as a Landscape Architecture. **Contribution:**

Visual Impact Assessment

Lynn Speckert, Associate Environmental Planner (Air/Noise/Energy).

BS in Environmental Toxicology, University of California, Davis. Ten years experience in air quality analysis; five years experience conducting noise analysis.

Contribution: Air/Noise Technical Analysis.

Jeff Haney, Associate Environmental Planner (Archeologist)

BA Anthropology, Penn State University. MA Cultural Resource Management, Sonoma State University. Twenty years experience, including ten years in California archaeology. **Contribution: Historic Property Survey Report**

Shanna Zahner, Associate Environmental Planner (Natural Sciences)

Five years experience in biological studies. BA Wildlife Biology, Kansas State University. **Contribution: Natural Environmental Assessment.**

Chapter 5 Distribution List

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County of Nevada Penn Valley Library ATTN: Katrin Olafsson 9080 Helling Way Nevada City, CA 95959

Nevada County Board of Supervisors Eric Rood Administrative Center 950 Maidu Avenue Nevada City, CA 95959

Department of Transportation and Sanitation ATTN: John Ramsey 950 Maidu Avenue Nevada City CA 95959

Nevada County Transportation Commission ATTN: Daniel Landon 101 Providence Mine Road Suite 102 Nevada City, CA 95959

California Transportation Commission 1120 N Street Room 2221 Sacramento, CA 95814

Appendix A

California Environmental Quality Act Evaluation

CEQA Environmental Checklist

The following checklist identifies physical, biological, social, and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project. The CEQA impact levels include potentially significant impact, less than significant impact with mitigation, less than significant impact, and no impact. Please refer to the following for detailed discussions regarding impacts:

CEOA:

- Guidance: Title 14, Chapter 3, California Code of Regulations, Sections 15000 et seq. (http://www.ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines/)
- Statutes: Division 13, California Public Resource Code, Sections 21000-21178.1 (http://www.ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/stat/)

CEQA requires that environmental documents determine significant or potentially significant impacts. In many cases, background studies performed in connection with the project indicate no impacts. A "no impact" reflects this determination. Any needed discussion is included in the section following the checklist.

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
AESTHETICS - Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				X
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic building within a state scenic highway?			X	
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?				X
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				X
AGRICULTURE RESOURCES - In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				X
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?				X
AIR QUALITY - Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				X

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?				X
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?				X
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentration?				X
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?				X
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?			X	
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?			X	
C) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?		X		
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?				X
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				X

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				X
COMMUNITY RESOURCES - Would the project:				
a) Cause disruption of orderly planned development?				X
b) Be inconsistent with a Coastal Zone Management Plan?				X
c) Affect life-styles, or neighborhood character or stability?				X
d) Physically divide an established community?				X
e) Affect minority, low-income, elderly, disabled, transit-dependent, or other specific interest group?				X
f) Affect employment, industry, or commerce, or require the displacement of businesses or farms?				X
g) Affect property values or the local tax base?				X
h) Affect any community facilities (including medical, educational, scientific, or religious institutions, ceremonial sites or sacred shrines?				X
i) Result in alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic?				X
j) Support large commercial or residential development?				X
k) Affect wild or scenic rivers or natural landmarks?				X
l) Result in substantial impacts associated with construction activities (e.g., noise, dust, temporary drainage, traffic detours, and temporary access, etc.)?			X	

CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?				X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?			X	
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				X
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?				X
GEOLOGY AND SOILS - Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				X
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				X
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				X
iv) Landslides?				X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			X	
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				X

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property.				X
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				X
HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS – Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?				X
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous material, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				X
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				X

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			X	
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				X
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?				X
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?				X
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				X
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?				X
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				X
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				X
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				X
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				X
LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:				

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
a) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X
b) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?				X
MINERAL RESOURCES - Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				X
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally- important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				X
NOISE - Would the project:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?				X
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				X
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?				X
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			X	
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? POPULATION AND HOUSING - Would the project:				X

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				X
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X
PUBLIC SERVICES -				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?				X
Police protection?				X
Schools?				X
Parks?				X
Other public facilities?				X
RECREATION -				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?				X
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				X
TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC - Would the project:				

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
a) Cause an increase in traffic which his substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?				X
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				X
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				X
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incomplete uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?				X
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?				X
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				X
UTILITY AND SERVICE SYSTEMS - Would the project:				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				X
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				X

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
e) Result in determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				X
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?				X
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X
MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE -				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, or cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?			X	
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				X
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				X

Appendix B

Title VI Policy Statement

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR 1120 N STREET P. O. BOX 942873 SACRAMENTO, CA 94273-0001 PHONE (916) 654-5267 FAX (916) 654-6608



July 26, 2000

TITLE VI POLICY STATEMENT

The California State Department of Transportation under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes, ensures that no person in the State of California shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex and national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity it administers.

JEFF MORALES

Director

Appendix C Impacts, Minimization, and Mitigation Summary

Potential Impact	Build Alternative	No-Build Alternative	Minimization/ Mitigation
Land Use – Consistency with General Plans	Yes	No	None required
Air Quality	Temporary construction impacts	No Impact	Construction measures
Noise	Temporary construction impacts	No Impact	Construction measures
Floodplain Encroachment	No Impact	No impact	None required
Wetlands	0.12 ac Temporary/No net loss	0	Purchase mitigation credits; construction measures; and ESAs
Waters of the US	0.74 acres total temporary and permanent impacts. Permanent impacts: Portion of China Ditch and a seasonal pond	0	Restore banks to their original condition and revegetate with native species appropriate for the area.
Oak Woodlands, Riparian and Upland	32.59 ac	No impact	Replacement planting; preservation; or purchase mitigation credits in addition to a Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
Bird Species	Temporary construction impacts.	No Impact	Work Windows to remove trees September 1/March 1
Bats	Temporary construction impacts. Permanent impacts to habitat.	No Impact	Work Windows to remove trees September 1/March 1
Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle	No impacts	0	Avoidance measures and ESAs
Northwestern Pond Turtle	Permanent and Temporary	0	Preconstruction surveys; construction measures; & BMPs
Hazardous Waste Sites	0	0	None required
Visual Impacts	Highway widening; loss of vegetation; and removal of approximately 800 – 1000 oak trees	No impact	Revegetation, erosion control, replanting oak trees at a specified rate, construction measures
Cultural Resources Potential effect to number CA-NEV-		No impact	ESA will be designated for those sites within the APE
Cumulative Impacts	No effect; all impacts are mitigated.	No impact	None Required
Growth Inducement	No	No impact	None required

Appendix D

Glossary of Terms

Ac	Acre		
ACOE	United States Army Corps of Engineers		
ADA	American Disabilities Act		
APE	Area of Potential Effects		
BSA	Biological Sensitive Area		
BMP	Best Management Practices		
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation		
CDFG	California Department of Transportation California Department of Fish and Game		
CEQA	California Department of Fish and Game California Environmental Quality Act		
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations		
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database		
CNPS	California Native Plant Society		
CVRWQCB	California Native Plant Society Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board		
CWA	Clean Water Act		
DOT	US Department of Transportation		
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency		
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area		
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency		
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration		
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act		
ft	Foot/feet		
ha	Hectare		
in	Inch		
km	Kilometer(s)		
KP	Kilometer post		
m	Meter(s)		
mi	Mile(s)		
Miles Per Hour	mph		
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act		
NEPA/404	National Environmental Policy Act/404		
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System		
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service		
PM	Post mile		
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board		
SCR	Senate Concurrent Resolution		
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office		
SR	State Route		
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan		
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board		
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service		

Appendix E

List of Technical Studies

- Air Quality and Noise Analysis
- Floodplain Assessment
- Hazardous Waste Evaluation
- Historic Resource Evaluation Report
- Archaeological Survey Report
- Natural Environment Study
- Visual Impact Assessment